

URBAN CORRIDORS – ALASKAN WAY VIADUCT AND SEAWALL PROJECT

BRIEFING PAPER

Prepared for the
April 2004 Transportation Commission Meeting

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Reviewed by: David Dye, Urban Corridors Office Administrator

Approved by: John Conrad, Assistant Secretary for Engineering and Regional Operations

PURPOSE: To provide an update on the project, with a focus on the recent events:

- Publishing of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).
- Results of March 20, 2004 Alaskan Way Viaduct inspection.
- Answer any questions the Commissioners may have.

ACTION/OUTCOME: Keep the Commission informed about progress on the viaduct project. No specific action by the Commission is requested

BACKGROUND: The Alaskan Way Viaduct team has been working feverishly since last summer to produce and finally publish the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the project. The DEIS consists of the draft EIS itself, and 25 technical reports in support of the draft. The DEIS has been written in an entirely new “user friendly” manner, including the use of many more graphics, charts, and visual simulations. The document will be available on electronic media as well as on the WSDOT website for added ease of access to the public.

During the week of March 15 through the weekend of March 20, 2004, WSDOT performed its biannual inspection of the viaduct facility. There was great concern about settlement and new cracks in the structure that were found in the last inspection in September 2003. No additional settlement was discovered during the recent inspection, and the cracks and distress observed in the structure has not changed significantly since last fall. If additional settlement had been discovered, the WSDOT was prepared to go to bid with an emergency contract to provide additional support for the foundations that are settling.

DISCUSSION: The DEIS examines and analyzes 5 alternatives. There is no preferred alternative in the DEIS. The public comment period for the DEIS ends on June 1, 2004. Work is continuing to refine and determine a preferred alternative for the viaduct replacement. The current schedule is to pick a preferred alternative by mid to late summer of this year. Any delay in reaching this milestone will delay the Final EIS and Record of Decision. Design is anticipated to begin as soon as the preferred is selected.

RECOMMENDATION: No recommendation is necessary.

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